

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic program guide providing device comprising:

5 an editing means for editing electronic program information;

 an electronic program information storage means for storing the electronic program information edited by said editing means;

10 a table generation means for generating an electronic program guide table by using the electronic program information stored in said electronic program information storage means, said device providing the generated electronic program guide table;

15 when updating the electronic program information stored in said electronic program information storage means, said editing means generating update information on the updating of the electronic program information; and

 said table generation means updating the electronic program guide table based on said update information generated by said editing means by using the electronic program information stored in said electronic program information storage means.

25 2. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 1, wherein said device further includes an update information storage means for storing the update information generated by said editing means, and wherein, when updating the electronic program information stored in said
30 electronic program information storage means, said editing

means stores the update information on the updating of the electronic program information in said update information storage means, and said table generation means generates the electronic program guide table based on the update information stored in said update information storage means by using the electronic program information stored in said electronic program information storage means.

3. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 1, wherein said electronic program guide table consists of a plurality of electronic program information tables each of which corresponds to the type of electronic program information included therein, and said table generation means determines which electronic program information table has to be updated based on the update information on the updating of the electronic program information, and updates only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated.

4. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 2, wherein said electronic program guide table consists of a plurality of electronic program information tables each of which corresponds to the type of electronic program information included therein, and said table generation means determines which electronic program information table has to be updated based on the update information on the updating of the electronic program information, and updates only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated.

5. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 3, wherein said table generation means updates only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated at predetermined intervals.

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6. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 4, wherein said table generation means updates only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated at predetermined intervals.

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7. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 5, wherein said table generation means sets the length of predetermined intervals at which only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated are updated according to a sending frequency of an electronic program information table with the largest sending frequency.

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8. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 6, wherein said table generation means sets the length of predetermined intervals at which only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated are updated according to a sending frequency of an electronic program information table with the largest sending frequency.

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9. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 5, wherein said table generation means sets the length of predetermined intervals at which each of one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated is updated according to a sending frequency of each of the one or more electronic program information tables.

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10. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 6, wherein said table generation means sets the length of predetermined intervals at which each of one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated is updated according to a sending frequency of each of the one or more electronic program information tables.

11. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 2, wherein said device includes a plurality of editing means, and each of said plurality of editing means inspects update information generated by any other editing means stored in said update information storage means.

12. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 2, wherein said update information storage means stores histories of the update information generated by said editing means, and said editing means restores the electronic program information stored in said electronic program information storage means to the state it was prior to any updating done by said editing means with reference to the histories of the update information stored in said update information storage means if necessary.

13. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 1, wherein said table generation means determines whether the updating of the electronic program information done by said editing means causes something wrong in the generation of the electronic program guide table, when determining so, notifies said editing means that there causes

something wrong in the generation of the electronic program guide table, and invalidates the updating of the electronic program information.

5 14. The electronic program guide providing device
according to Claim 1, wherein said table generation means
determines whether the updating of the electronic program
information done by said editing means causes something wrong
in the generation of the electronic program guide table, when
10 determining so, notifies said editing means that there causes
something wrong in the generation of the electronic program
guide table, and urges said editing means to re-edit the
electronic program information.

15 15. The electronic program guide providing device
according to Claim 12, wherein said table generation means
determines whether the updating of the electronic program
information done by said editing means causes something wrong
in the generation of the electronic program guide table, when
20 determining so, notifies said editing means that there causes
something wrong in the generation of the electronic program
guide table, and restores the electronic program information
stored in said electronic program information storage means to
the state it was prior to the updating of the electronic program
25 information with reference to the histories of the update
information stored in said update information storage means.

 16. The electronic program guide providing device
according to Claim 1, wherein said device includes a plurality
30 of table generation means for generating the electronic program

guide table while sharing a load of generating the electronic program guide table.

17. The electronic program guide providing device
5 according to Claim 2, wherein said device includes a plurality of table generation means for generating the electronic program guide table while sharing a load of generating the electronic program guide table.

10 18. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 1, wherein said table generation means provides the generated electronic program guide table at predetermined intervals, and, when updating the electronic program guide table, provides the electronic program guide
15 table updated at the same time that it updates the electronic program guide table.

19. The electronic program guide providing device
according to Claim 2, wherein said table generation means
20 provides the generated electronic program guide table at predetermined intervals, and, when updating the electronic program guide table, provides the electronic program guide table updated at the same time that it updates the electronic program guide table.